

Sundanese language

Sundanese (/sʌndə ˈniːz/^[3] ***Basa Sunda***, /basə sʊndə/, in Sundanese script: ᮊᮥᮒ ᮘᮞ᮪) is a Malayo-Polynesian language spoken by the Sundanese. It has approximately 39 million native speakers in the western third of Java; they represent about 15% of Indonesia's total population.

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Dialects

Sundanese appears to be most closely related to Madurese and Malay, and more distantly related to Javanese. It has several dialects, conventionally described according to the locations of the people:

Sundanese	
ᮊᮥᮒ ᮘᮞ᮪ <div>Basa Sunda</div>	
 <div>Word "Sunda" written in Official Sundanese script</div>	
Native to	Indonesia
Region	West Java, Banten, Jakarta, parts of western Central Java, southern Lampung, also spoken by the Sundanese diaspora all over Indonesia and throughout the world
Ethnicity	Sundanese, Bantenese, Cirebonese, Badui
Native speakers	40 million (2016) ^{[1]}
Language family	<div>Austronesian <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Malayo-Polynesian<ul style="list-style-type: none">disputed: Malayo-Sumbawan or Greater North Borneo<ul style="list-style-type: none">Sundanese</div>

- Western dialect, spoken in the provinces of Banten and some parts of Lampung;
- Northern dialect, spoken in Bogor, and northwestern coastal areas of West Java;
- Southern or Priangan dialect, spoken in Sukabumi, Cianjur, Bandung, Garut and Tasikmalaya
- Mid-east dialect, spoken in Cirebon, Majalengka and Indramayu,
- Northeast dialect, spoken in Kuningan, and Brebes (Central Java),
- Southeast dialect, spoken in Ciamis, Pangandaran, Banjar and Cilacap (Central Java).

The Priangan dialect, which covers the largest area where Sundanese people lives (*Parahyangan* in Sundanese), is the most widely spoken type of Sundanese language, taught in elementary till senior-high schools (equivalent to twelfth-year school grade) in West Java and Banten Province.

Writing

The language has been written in different writing systems throughout history. The earliest attested documents of the Sundanese language were written in the Old Sundanese script (*Aksara Sunda Kuno*). After the arrival of Islam, the Pegon script is also used, usually for religious purposes. The Latin script then began to be used after the arrival of Europeans. In modern times, most of Sundanese literature is written in Latin. The regional government of West Java and Banten are currently promoting the use of Standard Sundanese script (*Aksara Sunda Baku*) in public places and road signs. The Pegon script is still used mostly by pesantrens (Islamic boarding school) in West Java and Banten or in Sundanese Islamic literature.^[4]

Phonology

Sundanese orthography is highly phonemic (see also Sundanese script).

Vowels

There are seven vowels: a /a/, é /ɛ/, i /i/, o /ɔ/, u /u/, e /ə/, and eu /ɨ/.^[5]

	Front	Central	Back
Close	<u>i</u>	<u>ɨ</u>	<u>u</u>
Mid	<u>ɛ</u>	<u>ə</u>	<u>ɔ</u>
Open		<u>a</u>	

Dialects	Baduy language Bantenese language Brebian Sundanese Cirebonese Sundanese Northern Sundanese Priangan Sundanese
Writing system	Cacarakan (certain areas) Latin script (present) Pranagari (historical) Pegon script (Religious use only) Sundanese script (present; optional) Vatteluttu (historical)
Official status	
Official language in	Banten (regional) West Java (regional)
Language codes	
ISO 639-1	su (https://www.loc.gov/standards/iso639-2/php/langcodes_name.php?iso_639_1=su)
ISO 639-2	sun (https://www.loc.gov/standards/iso639-2/php/langcodes_name.php?code_ID=429)
ISO 639-3	sun
Glottolog	sund1251 (http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/sund1251) ^[2]
Linguasphere	31-MFN-a

Consonants

According to Müller-Gotama (2001) there are 18 consonants in the Sundanese phonology: /b/, /tʃ/, /d/, /g/, /h/, /dʒ/, /k/, /l/, /m/, /n/, /p/, /r/, /s/, /ŋ/, /t/, /ɲ/, /w/, /j/; however, influences from foreign languages have introduced several additional consonants such as /f/, /v/, /z/ (as in *fonem*, *qur'an*, *xerox*, *zakat*). The consonantal phonemes are transcribed with the letters p, b, t, d, k, g, c (pronounced /tʃ/), j /dʒ/, h, ng (/ŋ/), ny /ɲ/, m, n, s /s/, w, l, r /r~r/, and y /j/. Other consonants that originally appear in Indonesian loanwords are mostly transferred into native consonants: f → p, v → p, sy → s, sh → s, z → j, and kh /x/ → h (similar to Korean language).



A Sundanese *lontar* manuscript written in Sundanese script.



The first page from the manuscript of Carita Waruga Guru which uses the Old Sundanese script and Old Sundanese language.

ᮊ	ᮕ	ᮖ	ᮗ	ᮘ	ᮙ
ka	ga	nga	ca	ja	nya
ᮛ	ᮜ	ᮝ	ᮞ	ᮟ	ᮠ
ta	da	na	pa	ba	ma
ᮡ	ᮢ	ᮣ	ᮤ	ᮥ	ᮦ
ya	ra	la	wa	sa	ha
ᮧ	ᮨ	ᮩ	᮪	᮫	
fa	va	qa	xa	za	
ᮬ	ᮭ				
kha	sya				

Aksara Sunda (Sundanese script)

		<u>Bilabial</u>	<u>Alveolar</u>	<u>Palatal</u>	<u>Velar</u>	<u>Glottal</u>
<u>Nasal</u>		<u>m</u>	<u>n</u>	<u>ɲ</u>	<u>ŋ</u>	
<u>Plosive</u>	voiceless	<u>p</u>	<u>t</u>		<u>k</u>	
	voiced	<u>b</u>	<u>d</u>		<u>g</u>	
<u>Affricate</u>	voiceless			<u>tʃ</u>		
	voiced			<u>dʒ</u>		
<u>Fricative</u>			<u>s</u>			<u>h</u>
<u>Lateral</u>			<u>l</u>			
<u>Trill</u>			<u>r</u>			
<u>Approximant</u>		<u>w</u>		<u>j</u>		

There are /w/ and /j/ as semi vowels, they function as glide sound between two different vowels, as in the words:

- kuéh - /kuwɛh/
- muih - /muwih/
- béar - /bejar/
- miang - /mijan/

Phonemes /w/ and /j/ function as glide sounds between two different vowels as in the words:

- wa - rung
- wa - yang
- ba - wang
- ha - yang
- ku - ya

Register

Sundanese has an elaborate system of register distinguishing two basic levels of formality: *kasar* (low, informal) and *lemes* (high, formal).^[6]

For many words, there are distinct *kasar* and *lemes* forms, e.g. *arek* (kasar) vs. *bade* (lemes) "want", *maca* (kasar) vs. *maos* (lemes) "read". In the *lemes* level, some words further distinguish humble and respectful forms, the former being used to refer to oneself, and the latter for the addressee and third persons, e.g. *rorompok* "(my own) house" vs. *bumi* "(your or someone else's) house" (the *kasar* form is *imah*).

Similar systems of speech levels are found in Javanese, Madurese, Balinese and Sasak.

Grammar

Root word

Root verb

English	Sundanese (informal)	Sundanese (formal)
eat	dahar	tuang (for other) neda (for myself)
drink	inum	leueut
write	tulis	serat
read	maca	maos
forget	poho	hilap
remember	inget	emut
sit	diuk	calik linggih
standing	nangtung	adeg
walk	leumpang	papah

Plural form

Other Austronesian languages commonly use reduplication to create plural forms. However, Sundanese inserts the *ar* infix into the stem word. If the stem word starts with *l*, or contains *r* following the infix, the infix *ar* becomes *al*. Also, as with other Sundanese infixes (such as *um*), if the word starts with vowel, the infix becomes a prefix. Examples:

1. *Mangga A, tarahuna haneut kénéh*. "Please sir, the bean curds are still warm/hot." The plural form of *tahu* 'bean curd, tofu' is formed by infixing *ar* after the initial consonant.
2. *Barudak leutik lalumpatan*. "Small children running around." *Barudak* "children" is formed from *budak* (child) with the *ar* infix; in *lumpat* (run) the *ar* infix becomes *al* because *lumpat* starts with *l*.
3. *leu kaén batik aralus sadayana*. "All of these batik clothes are beautiful." Formed from *alus* (nice, beautiful, good) with the infix *ar* that becomes a prefix because *alus* starts with a vowel. It denotes the adjective "beautiful" for the plural subject/noun (batik clothes).
4. *Siswa sakola éta mah balageur*. "The students of that school are well-behaved." Formed from *bageur* ("good-behaving, nice, polite, helpful") with the infix *ar*, which becomes *al* because of *r* in the root, to denote the adjective "well-behaved" for plural students.

However, it is reported that this use of *al* instead of *ar* (as illustrated in (4) above) does not occur if the 'r' is in onset of a neighbouring syllable. For example, the plural form of the adjective *curiga* (suspicious) is *caruriga* and not **caluriga*, because the 'r' in the root occurs at the start of the following syllable.^[7]

The prefix can be reduplicated to denote *very-*, or the plural of groups. For example, "**bararudak**" denotes many, many children or many groups of children (*budak* is child in Sundanese). Another example, "**balalageur**" denotes plural adjective of "very well-behaved".

Active form

Most active forms of Sundanese verbs are identical to the root, as with *diuk* "sit" or *dahar* "eat". Some others depend on the initial phoneme in the root:

1. Initial /d/, /b/, /f/, /g/, /h/, /j/, /l/, /r/, /w/, /z/ can be put after prefix *nga* like in *ngadahar*.
2. Initial /i/, /e/, /u/, /a/, /o/ can be put after prefix *ng* like in *nginum* "drink".

Negation

Abdi **henteu** acan neda. "I have not eaten yet."

Buku abdi mah **sanés** nu ieu. "My book is not this one."

Question

Dupi -(question)

example:saya

Polite-

- *Dupi Bapa aya di bumi?* "Is your father at home?"
- *Dupi bumi di palih mana?* "Where do you live?"

Interrogatives

English	Sundanese (informal)	Sundanese (formal)	Indonesian
what	naon		apa
who	saha		siapa
whose/whom	nu saha	kagungan saha	siapa punya
where	(di) mana	(di) manten	(di) mana
when	iraha		bila
why	naha		kenapa
how	kumaha		bagaimana
how many	sabaraha		berapa

Passive form

Buku dibantun ku abdi. "The book is brought by me." *Dibantun* is the passive form *ngabantun* "bring".

Pulpen ditambut ku abdi. "The pen is borrowed by me."

Soal ieu digawekeun ku abdi. "This problem is done by me."

Adjectives

Examples:

teuas (hard), *tiis* (cool), *hipu* (soft), *lada* (hot/spicy, usually for foods), *haneut* (warm), etc.

Prepositions

Place

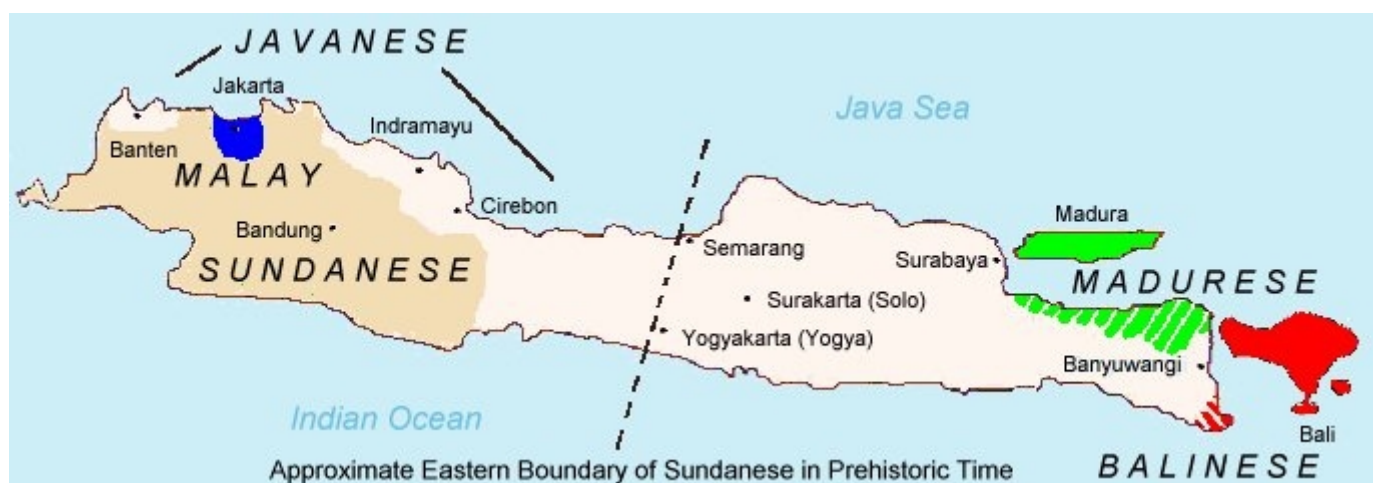
English	Sundanese (informal)	Sundanese (formal)
above ..	diluhureun ..	diluhureun ..
behind ..	ditukangeun ..	dipengkereun ..
under ..	dihandapeun ..	dihandapeun ..
inside ..	di jero ..	di lebet ..
outside ..	di luar ..	di luar ..
between .. and ..	di antara .. jeung ..	di antawis .. sareng ..
front ..	hareup ..	payun ..
back ..	tukang ..	pengker ..

Time

English	Sundanese (informal)	Sundanese (formal)
before	saacan	sateuacan
after	sanggeus	saparantos
during	basa	nalika
past	baheula	kapungkur

Miscellaneous

English	Sundanese (informal)	Sundanese (formal)
from	tina/ti	tina
for	jang, paragi	kanggo/kanggé



Languages spoken in Java.

See also

- [Kidung Sunda](#)
- [Sundanese alphabet](#)
- [Sundanese \(Unicode block\)](#)

References

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7. Bennett, Wm G. (2015). *The Phonology of Consonants: Harmony, Dissimilation, and Correspondence*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. p. 132.

Further reading

- Rigg, Jonathan (1862). *A Dictionary of the Sunda Language of Java*. Batavia: Lange & Co.
- S. Coolsma (1985). *Tata Bahasa Sunda* (<http://repositori.kemdikbud.go.id/2645/>). Jakarta: Djambatan.

External links

- [Sundanese-Indonesian and Indonesian-Sundanese Dictionary](http://www.kamusbahasasunda.com/) (<http://www.kamusbahasasunda.com/>)
- [Sundanese converter Latin-Sundanese script \(Aksara Sunda\)](https://web.archive.org/web/20100907014837/http://sabilulungan.org/aksara/) (<https://web.archive.org/web/20100907014837/http://sabilulungan.org/aksara/>)
- [Indonesian-Sundanese Translator](https://web.archive.org/web/20110826135535/http://sabilulungan.org/tarjamah/) (<https://web.archive.org/web/20110826135535/http://sabilulungan.org/tarjamah/>)
- <http://unicode-table.com/en/sections/sundanese/>

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